

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicant thanks the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-13 are pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added and claims 1 and 9 have been canceled through this reply. Therefore, claims 2-8 and 10-13 are pending. Claims 2 and 3 are independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 2-6 and 10-13 are indicated to be allowable. Applicant further appreciates that claims 7- 8 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

OFFICIAL ACTION

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,236,434) in view of Tandon et al. (U.S. Patent 6,961,157). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn because claim 1 has been canceled.

Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of claims 7 and 8 be withdrawn because claims 7 and 8 have been amended by removing the dependency to canceled claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that claims 2-8 and 10-13 are clearly allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone

Application No. 10/755,356
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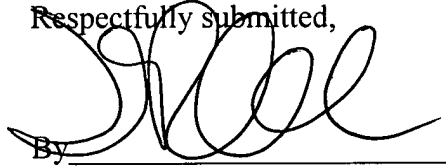
Docket No.: 0649-0933P

number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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